

Commissioning ceremony recognizes ICDC leaders

By Staff Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps officially welcomed and recognized its new commissioned officer leaders during a formal ceremony taking place at Martyrs' Monument Feb. 25.

"Today is an historic day for these men, for their families, for Baghdad and for the people of Iraq," Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander told those on hand to observe the event.

Dempsey stressed the importance of the ICDC soldiers' role in securing and preserving their country's freedom.

"Today these men will swear an oath before God to take responsibility for the security of their nation," Dempsey said of the nine ICDC officers being commissioned. "We salute them for their bravery. We honor them for their patriotism. And, we promise that we will stand with them against the enemies of freedom."

With the raising of their right hands, the officers recited the oath. Afterward, the nine "pinned" their new insignia of rank by Dempsey and their perspective brigade and battalion commanders.

"This is a very historic and great day for the Iraqi people," said Lt. Col. Marwan Mohammed, the 1st Armored Division Artillery Combat Team's 304th ICDC Battalion commander, said after being pinned by Col. Jon Brockman, DCT commander.

The 18-year air defense artillery officer for the former Iraqi army said this is only the first of many steps toward a free and new Iraq.

"It is like night to day, from dark to light," Mohammed said describing the changes in his country after the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime. "Previously, people would put on the rank and do nothing for the rank."

Mohammed keeps in his pocket the old rank he once wore as a reminder of the regime that would use power to dictate how people lived and destroyed their lives.

"People would use their rank to harm people – it's just how it was," he said. "My first goal with my new rank is to serve my country honorably. I want to help and serve the Iraqi people. They deserve nothing less."

He said wearing the ICDC uniform brings risk to his life.



As a sign of solidarity and comradeship, 1st Armored Division and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps commissioned leaders hold hands following ceremonies recognizing the Iraqis' leadership status Feb. 25 at Martyrs' Monument in Baghdad.

"It's our responsibility toward our country and nation. I would like to thank the coalition forces for the training and opportunity to live with this risk," he said.

Dempsey reminded the ICDC leaders that freedom isn't free, "But we've also learned that freedom can not be given away," he said. "It must be earned and these men and the men they lead and others they lead in the Iraqi Civic Defense Corps and the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police will have earned it."

The Iraqis are at a turning point in their rich and long history, Dempsey said.

"For the first time in many years, the citizens of Iraq will decide for themselves what type of future they want," he said.

"These men will ensure this decision can be made in security and in peace," he said. "When the history of this new, free Iraq is written, the name of these men will be listed among its heroes."

Following the formal portion of the commissioning ceremony, the stage was filled as Dempsey and other American and Iraqi officers holding hands as a sign of commitment and solidarity.

The Old Ironsides Report February 27, 2004

NEWS...

N. Korea Says U.S. Stalling Nuclear Talks

BEIJING (AP) - North Korea on Thursday proposed a comprehensive halt to its nuclear activities but described Washington's attitude as "hostile." Both sides said there was no progress in a second round of six-nation talks on the nuclear standoff. The conflicting signs - progress and immediate public criticism - are a hallmark of North Korean diplomacy. Still, Pyongyang's offer to end a 16-month standoff by stopping its nuclear activities was unusual because it was delivered in formal multilateral talks.

U.S. Lifts Travel Restrictions on Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States lifted a long-standing ban on travel to Libya on Thursday and invited American companies to begin planning their return, after Moammar Gadhafi's government affirmed that it was responsible for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988. The administration also encouraged Libya to establish an official presence in Washington by opening an "interests section," a diplomatic office a level beneath an embassy. The United States also will expand its diplomatic presence in Tripoli.

Rebel Fighters Converge on Haiti Capital

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (AP) - Rebels began moving toward Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince on Thursday and are awaiting the order to attack, a guerrilla leader told The Associated Press. The leader, Guy Philippe, said their mission was to arrest President Jean-Bertrand Aristide if he did not resign, so he could be tried on charges ranging from corruption to murder.

House Set to Vote on Unborn Victims Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House moved to allow federal prosecutors to charge assailants with two separate crimes for injuring or killing a pregnant woman and her unborn child, brushing back arguments that conferring new rights to the fetus would undermine abortion rights. Supporters of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act said Americans were solidly behind making an attack on a pregnant woman subject to two crimes.

Cubs Foul Ball Getting Explosive Send-Off

CHICAGO (AP) - The foul ball that couldn't be caught when it counted last October will be obliterated by a special-effects expert on live television Thursday night to lift the "curse" afflicting the Chicago Cubs and bring some closure to one of the most painful losses in the team's doleful history. Grant DePorter, who helped buy the ball at a December auction for \$113,824 on behalf of Harry Caray's Restaurant Group, has lined up three hours of music, comedy and celebrity appearances leading up to the climactic event - everything short of Steve Bartman, the hapless fan who deflected the ball during Game 6 of the National League championship series.

Entertainment...

Shock Jock Howard Stern Vents on Air

NEW YORK (AP) -- A day after the nation's largest radio station chain suspended shock jock Howard Stern's show for alleged indecency, Stern vented on the air Thursday with uncharacteristic restraint.

"They are so afraid of me and what this show represents," he said.

Clear Channel Radio suspended Stern from six stations - the only outlets among its 1,200 stations that air the show - after an on-air interview Tuesday with socialite Paris Hilton's ex-boyfriend Rick Salomon during which a caller used a racial slur. Salomon is the man involved in the hotel heiress' infamous homemade sex video.

Stern's show is still being carried on stations owned by a rival radio network, Infinity Broadcasting, that distributes it to major markets nationwide. In 1995, Infinity paid the largest cumulative FCC fine to date, \$1.7 million, for various violations by Stern's radio show. The six Clear Channel stations involved are in Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, Fla., Rochester, N.Y., San Diego, Pittsburgh and Louisville, Ky.

"Clear Channel drew a line in the sand today with regard to protecting our listeners from indecent content, and Howard Stern's show blew right through it," Clear Channel's president, John Hogan, said. "It was vulgar, offensive and insulting, not just to women and African-Americans but to anyone with a sense of common decency."

Stern said Thursday morning near the beginning of his show that he wasn't even sure he should talk about it.

"I could blow my stack, but ...," Stern said, trailing off.

Hogan was scheduled to testify along with top officials from television networks at the second congressional hearing this month on broadcast indecency in the wake of the exposure of Janet Jackson's breast during the Super Bowl halftime show Feb. 1.

"Janet Jackson is now forgotten and I'm on the front page of every newspaper," said Stern. "I can't imagine the pressure they're putting on this guy."

Clear Channel said Stern's show would not air until officials are assured it will conform to acceptable broadcasting standards.

Thought for the day...

Success

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.

-- Booker T. Washington

Today in History...

February 27, 1964: LEANING TOWER NEEDS HELP:

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On February 27, 1964, the Italian government announces that it is accepting suggestions on how to save the renowned Leaning Tower of Pisa from collapse. The top of the 180-foot tower was hanging 17 feet south of the base, and studies showed that the tilt was increasing by a fraction every year. Experts warned that the medieval building--one of Italy's top tourist attractions--was in serious danger of toppling in an earthquake or storm. Proposals to save the Leaning Tower arrived in Pisa from all over the world, but it was not until 1999 that successful restorative work began.

On August 9, 1173, construction began on the Leaning Tower, which was to house the bells of the vast cathedral of the Piazza dei Miracoli, the "Place of Miracles." Pisa at the time was a major trading power and one of the richest cities in the world, and the bell tower was to be the most magnificent Europe had ever seen. However, when the tower was just over three stories tall, construction stopped for an unknown reason. It may have been because of economic or political strife, or the engineers may have noticed that even then, the tower had begun to sink down into the ground on one side.

In recent years, it has been determined that the tower's lean is caused by the remains of an ancient river estuary located under the building. The ground is made up in large part of water and silty sand, and one side of the heavy marble building began gradually sinking into the ground as soon as the foundation was laid.

The 95-year pause in construction allowed the building to settle somewhat, and the new chief engineer sought to compensate for the tower's visible lean by making the new stories slightly taller on the short side. In 1278, workers reached the top of the seventh story, and construction was halted again. By that time, the southward tilt was nearly three feet.

In 1360, work began on the bell chamber, the eighth and final story, and workers attempted to compensate for the lean by building the chamber at a slight slant with the rest of the tower. The tower was officially completed about 1370. Despite its growing lean, the building was acclaimed as an architectural wonder, and people came from far and wide to admire its 200 columns and six external arcades.

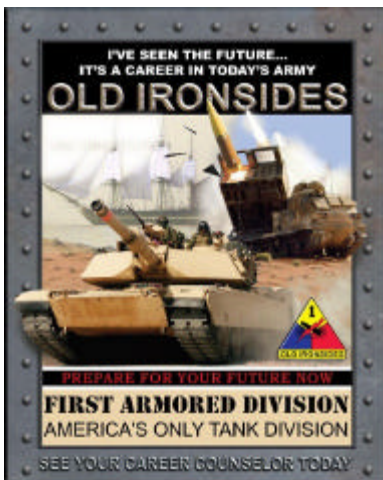
The lean grew a little every year, but this only increased interest in the tower. A measuring from 1550 showed the top was 12 feet south of the base. In 1838, an architect was given permission to excavate the base of the tower, a portion of which had sunk into the ground. As he dug, water came sprouting out of the ground, and the tower tilted another few inches south.

In 1934, Benito Mussolini, the dictator of Italy, decided that the Leaning Tower was an inappropriate symbol for masculine Fascist Italy. In an attempt to reverse the tilt, engineers drilled holes into the foundation of the tower, and some 200 tons of concrete was poured in. The tower abruptly lurched another few inches south.

In the 1950s, the heavy medieval bells in the tower were locked tight. In 1964, the Italian government publicly asked for suggestions on how to save the tower from what they believed was a forthcoming collapse. Two years later, a restorative attempt involving drilling was aborted when the tower tilted another fraction south. In 1985, another boring attempt likewise caused an increase in the lean. In 1990, the Italian government closed the Leaning Tower's doors to the public out of safety concerns and began considering more drastic proposals to save the tower.

In 1992, in an effort to temporarily stabilize the building, plastic-coated steel tendons were built around the tower up to the second story. The next year, a concrete foundation was built around the tower in which counterweights were placed on the north side. The use of these weights lessened the tilt by nearly an inch. In 1995, the commission overseeing the restoration sought to replace the unsightly counterweights with underground cables. Engineers froze the ground with liquid nitrogen in preparation, but this actually caused a dramatic increase in the lean and the project was called off.

Finally, in 1999, engineers began a process of soil extraction under the north side that within a few months was showing positive effects. The soil was removed at a very slow pace, no more than a gallon or two a day, and a massive cable harness held the tower in the event of a sudden destabilization. Within six months, the tilt had been reduced by over an inch, and by the end of 2000, nearly a foot. Once a foot and a half reduction is achieved, probably sometime in 2001, the project will end. Those 18 inches will give another 300 years of life to the Leaning Tower of Pisa and permit its reopening to the public, who will be hard-pressed to notice any difference in its famous lean.



Reenlistment bonus available until soldiers depart theater

Currently, more than 1,400 soldiers have taken advantage of the deployed force reenlistment bonus since October. Soldiers must understand the bonus is no longer available once they redeploy to their home station.

The most frequently asked question from soldiers is "how long am I eligible for the reenlistment bonus?"

The answer is simple: once a soldier leaves Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, the lump sum tax-free bonus no longer exists.

As we begin to redeploy, our Career Counselors and key retention personnel will become much less accessible as they will be spread thin throughout Iraq, Kuwait, and Germany.

Soldiers eligible for this incentive are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity well in advance of their expected redeployment date. Soldiers should contact their Career Counselors who are standing by to assist our Iron Soldiers in continuing to serve proudly and "Stay Army."

For more information, contact your career counselor.

The Old Ironsides Report

February 27, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004

As of: Thursday, February 26, 2004 9:32:15 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - DEDICATED TO CHAOS, 1943-1945	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			AIR FORCE TV NEWS	00:30
01:00			HORATIO HORNBLOWER : - THE DUCHESS AND THE DEVIL		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - SPORTSCENTER: A-ROD & JETER INTERVIEW	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: MARQUETTE @ SOUTH FLORIDA	ROCKET POWER : - HERE'S THE TWIST/ SAM: KING OF KICKBALL	TELETUBBIES : - GIRAFFES	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	NBA - SAN ANTONIO SPURS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS		THE SIMPSONS : - ITCHY AND SCRATCHY AND MARGE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	MSNBC	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - VANESSA'S BAD GRADE			04:30
05:00		MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: VALPARAISO @ DUKE	12TH ANNUAL TRUMPET AWARDS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00				NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS			JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - ODZALA: ISLANDS IN THE FOREST	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAVA HUNTERS : - TAMING THE DRAGON		CNN LIVE SPECIAL - POLITICAL DEBATE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	INSIDE THE NBA	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - INTERVENTION	HOUSE OF MOUSE : - THE THREE CABALLEROS		09:00
09:30				ALL GROWN UP : - BAD KIMI	CNN LIVE	09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - GIRAFFES	IRON CHEF : - ASPARAGUS/SAKAI VS TOSHIHIRO KOMINE	KIM POSSIBLE (TV-7): - THE TWIN FACTOR	CNN LIVE	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7): - PARTY MACHINE/SPEAK NO EVIL		10:30
11:00	NHL - ST. LOUIS BLUES @ COLORADO AVALANCHE	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - HERE'S THE TWIST/ SAM: KING OF KICKBALL	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS : - ITCHY AND SCRATCHY AND MARGE	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - VANESSA'S BAD GRADE	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			12TH ANNUAL TRUMPET AWARDS	THE SIMPSONS : - THE REGINA MONOLOGUES	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:30	SPORTSCENTER			THAT 70'S SHOW : - BRING IT ON HOME		13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS		SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS	PRIMETIME	14:00
14:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - WCC: SAN DIEGO @ GONZAGA	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - ODZALA: ISLANDS IN THE FOREST	24 : - DAY 2: 3:00 A.M.- 4:00 A.M.	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00			LAVA HUNTERS : - TAMING THE DRAGON	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30	SPORTSCENTER			TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00		HOUSE OF MOUSE : - THE THREE CABALLEROS	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - INTERVENTION		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: OREGON @ CALIFORNIA	ALL GROWN UP : - BAD KIMI		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		KIM POSSIBLE (TV-7): - THE TWIN FACTOR	IRON CHEF : - ASPARAGUS/SAKAI VS TOSHIHIRO KOMINE		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TV-7): - PARTY MACHINE/SPEAK NO EVIL		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00		JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - HERE'S THE TWIST/ SAM: KING OF KICKBALL	YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN		19:00
19:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - ITCHY AND SCRATCHY AND MARGE		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - VANESSA'S BAD GRADE			20:30
20:45						20:45
21:00	TOTALLY NASCAR	THE SIMPSONS : - THE REGINA MONOLOGUES	12TH ANNUAL TRUMPET AWARDS	THE JUROR	PRIMETIME	21:00
21:30	SPORTSCENTER	THAT 70'S SHOW : - BRING IT ON HOME				21:30
22:00	PGA TOUR - WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS - ACCENTURE MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS			FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		24 : - DAY 2: 3:00 A.M.- 4:00 A.M.	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS : - ODZALA: ISLANDS IN THE FOREST	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					CNN'S INSIDE POLITICS	23:30